

I beg to lay ;

Notification No. HD 28 PES 77 dated 23rd May, 1978
The Karnataka Excise (Denatured spirit and Denatured
spiritous (Preparations) (Amendment) Rules, 1978
under sub-section (4) of Section 71 of the Karnataka Excise
Act, 1965.

MR. SPEAKER.—The Papers are laid.

Leave of Absence to Sri F. S. Patil grant of

MR. SPEAKER.—I have received a letter from Sri F. S. Patil, Member, Legislative Assembly, requesting for leave of absence for further period from 17th July, 1978 to 22nd July, 1978.

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to remain absent from 17th July, 1978 to 22nd July, 1978 ?

HON. MEMBERS.—Yes.

MR. SPEAKER.—Permission to remain absent is granted.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 312

re : demands of Hatti Gold Mines Workers and also relay hunger strike,

† SRI C. M. ARUMUGHUM (K.G.F.).—I wish to raise a matter under rule 315 regarding the Charter of demands of Hatti Gold Mines Workers and also the relay hunger strike since 23-6-1978.

The Workers of Hatti Gold Mines numbering about 3400 are on relay hunger strike from 23rd June, 1978. In Sympathy to their demands for wage revision, the President of Village Panchayat, the T.D.B. Members, Lawyers and ladies are participating in this relay hunger strike. The pay structure of the workers of the Hatti Gold Mines are like this :

There are 652 workers who are working in surface are getting Rs. 204 plus annual increment of Rs. 4/- and the Maximum comes to Rs. 230/- or so.

There are 1144 workers who are underground workers are getting Rs. 216/- per month and an annual increment of Rs. 4/-. They reach the maximum of Rs. 240 after 6 years of service,

All the workers of the Hatti Gold Mines are not getting any dearness allowance. These 3400 workers are getting free-grain concession but a section of the workers are getting about less than Rs. 50/- and a section of the workers are getting Rs. 50-60 and someothers are getting Rs. 60 and above. Then House-rent allowance at the rate of Rs. 10 is given to those who are getting the salary upto Rs. 500. They are numbering about 1900. In addition they are also getting provident fund contribution and a clothing allowance at the rate of Rs. 36/- per year. Then, 1278 workers are stagnated at various grades, and the present grades are as follows:—

It ranges from 'A' to 'F' both surface and underground and in the case of underground workers, it starts from Rs. 216 or so and the Department Assistant are getting Rs. 700-800. Let us consider the salary that is being given to the workers in several public sector undertakings, in the State. In the case of I.T.I. H.M.T. B.E.L., Bharath Earth Movers, all put together, there are 75,000 workers and they are getting a minimum of Rs. 500 per month. In MICO, an employee gets about Rs. 630/- as a minimum. Even a Helper is getting Rs. 530/-. There are 7000 workers in that factory. Take the case of REMCO, recently taken over by the Bharath Heavy Electricals Limited. There, an employee gets about Rs. 430 plus Rs. 30 i.e., Rs. 460/- per month. There are 1300 workers working in that factory.

So far as the financial position of this Hatti Gold Mines is concerned, from the annual report, it is clear that it is very sound. The report says that 1,40,142 tonnes of ore milled from which 8,79,565.50 gram of Gold were recovered. Mr Mallappa was the Chairman some time back for this industry. It is clear from the annual report that it is making steady progress and some profit is also there. I hope you will kindly appreciate it because nowhere, the gold mine industry is making a profit because gold is being sold in the International Monetary Market, even K.G.F. also. Here there is a profit for this industry.

Sir, at page 30 the working results of the Hatti Gold Mines shows as follows ;

Profit before tax	(1974-75)	Rs. 221.32 lakhs
Tax Provision	,,	Rs. 194.27 ,,
Profit after tax	,,	Rs. 27.05 ,,

Now this year i.e., 1976-77 the Profit after tax is Rs. 21.69 lakhs. So, this industry is making profit. As I said even Mr. Mallappa also in his statement says that the cost of production is more than what we invested. This point has to be discussed at the higher level, But

it is not so in this case. So, the Hutti Gold Mines Workers numbering about 3,400 are demanding that their wages must be increased and they should be paid dearness allowance on par with other engineering industries. They demand that their pay revision should be on par with Kolar Gold Mines. Sir, it is the principle accepted by the First Pay Commission and the Supreme Court that the fixation of wages of all the industries should be uniform in that region. In Karnataka we have got two industries. One is Kolar Gold Mines and another is Hutti Gold Mines. According to Supreme Court's decision and also of the First Pay Commission whatever the workers get in Kolar Gold Mines, the Hutti Gold Mines workers are equally entitled to get, and they are entitled to equal protection. Sir, as you are aware they are working under hazardous condition, they are subject to silicosis, their longevity is not assured. So, there must be revision of wages for the Hutti Gold Mines on par with the Gold Mine Workers of Bharath Gold Field. So, I could say that Gold Mine Workers are not getting good salary. I think workers working in various types of mines of the world every month or alternative there are so many workers crush to death. Every year, hundred of worker have been declared medically unfit and many are suffering from tuberculosis. The Hutti Gold Mines workers are working in a depth of 2,500 feet. With all these sufferings they undergo, their salary is low. At present, the workers are getting about Rs. 210 minimum and a maximum of Rs. 280/- per month. In addition they are getting 108 rupees as dearness allowance. Now, due to recent wages revision which we are negotiating every worker will get about Rs. 350/- per month including dearness allowance and food allowance of Rs. 50 per month. Therefore, what I appeal to the Government is, to revise the pay scales of Hutti Gold Mines on par with Bharath Gold Mines limited. In Hutti Gold Mines they are producing nearly 8 lakhs gram of gold and their demand is genuine. Now, according to Bhoothalingam's Report the Central Government has come forward to accept the wage structure. In that report he suggest hundred Rupees as minimum wage. I do not know whether it will be accepted by the workers. It is highly impossible for Hutti Gold Mine workers to maintain their families with this 200 rupees without any dearness allowance. How can they pay same price for vegetable and for other articles. Therefore, I appeal to the Government of Karnataka to come forward to settle the genuine demands of Hutti Gold Mine workers. In our Karnataka we are having two gold mines which is said to be national asset. Therefore, I appeal to the Chief Minister and Labour Minister to use their good offices to settle their wage revision. Even Mr. S. M. Krishna, who was previously incharge of Industries has highly spoken of this Hutti Gold Mine Workers. But

no steps have been taken to remove poverty among the working class. These Hutti Gold Mines workers are drawing Rs. 204 to 216 for all these years. Whereas the Officers of this Hutti Gold Mines are getting the same salary as that of a Director of H.A.L., I.T.I. and same facilities with a Pay of Rs. 3,000 which is equal to the salary of our Chief Secretary. But the working class in Hutti Gold Mines are getting less pay. Why this disparity? Here again injustice has been done to them. The workers have started to strike from 18th of this month to press for their demand. Therefore, I appeal to the Government of Karnataka to intervene in the matter and ask the Executive Director to negotiate with the workers and come to a settlement. I request the Government of Karnataka not to take this as prestige question. Because they are on hunger strike, they are poor, and poverty stricken. Therefore, it is necessary that Government of Karnataka should come forward without standing on prestige or formalities direct the Executive Director to negotiate with the workers and settle their genuine demand.

† ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ವಿ. ಕಕ್ಕಿಲಾಯ (ವಿಠಲ).—ಹಟ್ಟಿ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಗಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಸಹಾನುಭೂತಿಯಿಂದ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಈಡೇರಿಸಿಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಈ ಸದನದ ಸುಮಾರು ೪೦ ಜನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳು ಬಂದು ಮನವಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ವಹಿಸಿ ಸಹಾನುಭೂತಿಯಿಂದ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಅಲ್ಲವೆ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಆರ್. ಎಸ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ್.—ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ದಯವಿಟ್ಟು ಈ ರೀತಿ ಹೇಳಬಾರದು. ನಾನು ಎರಡೂ ಪಕ್ಷದವರನ್ನೂ ಕರೆಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಅದರ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿವಹಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಬಾರದು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ವಿ. ಕಕ್ಕಿಲಾಯ.—ಇದನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯವರು ಪರಿಹರಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ನಾವು ಏನೂ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದಿರಿ. ಭೂತಲಿಂಗಂ ಸಮಿತಿ ವರದಿ ಬಂದಿದೆ.....

SRI R. S. PATIL.—Appropriate Government means, Government of India. We have no jurisdiction over that.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ವಿ. ಕಕ್ಕಿಲಾಯ.—ಈ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ತಾವು ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಮಾಡಿ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಬದಲು ತಾವು ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಕಡೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದರೆ ಅದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಏನಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ನಮಗೂ ಗೊತ್ತು. ತಾವು ಮಾತ್ರ ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಹಾರ ಮಾಡಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಹೊತ್ತುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಇದನ್ನು ತಾವು ಸಹಾನುಭೂತಿಯಿಂದ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿಚಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ಆರ್ಮುಗಂ ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಈಗ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ವೇತನ ೨೦೨ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ. ತುಟ್ಟಭತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಏನೂ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಬೆಲೆಗಳು ಏರುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ತುಟ್ಟ ಭತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ಬೇರೆ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇದನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ವೇಜಸ್ ಇನ್ ಟರ್ಮ್ಸ್ ಆಫ್ ಎಕ್ಸಿಸ್ಟಿಂಗ್ ಪ್ರೈವೆಟ್ ಲೇವೆಲ್ ಅದೂ ಕೂಡ ಬರುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಭೂತಲಿಂಗಂ ಕಮಿಟಿಯವರ ವರದಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಏನು ಗೊತ್ತು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೋ ಅಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಈಗ ಇವರು ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ವೇತನ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಥವಾ ಇದು ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆಯೋ ಏನೋ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ರೇಷನ್ ಕೊಡುವುದು ಸರಾಸರಿ ೫೦೦ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಸೇರಿಸಿದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಒಬ್ಬ ಕೆಲಸಗಾರನಿಗೆ ೨೫೨ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅವರು ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಏನು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಅದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆರ್ಮುಗಂ ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ ಹಾಗೆ ಇದನ್ನು ರಿಜನ್ ಕಂ

ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರಿ ಬೇಸಿಸ್ ಮೇಲೆ, ಆ ಒಂದು ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ತಾವು ವೇತನವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಈಗಿರ ತಕ್ಕ ವೇಜಸ್ ಯಾವುದೋ ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷ್ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೊತ್ತುಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ಎಂದು ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡಿರತಕ್ಕ ವಿಚಾರ. ಸುಪ್ರಿಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ನವರು ಇದನ್ನು ಇದೇ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಫಿಕ್ಸ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೋಲಾರ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಮೈನ್ಸ್‌ನವರ ವೇತನ ಏನು ಇದೆ, ಅವರಿಗೆ ಏನು ಅನುಕೂಲತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೋ ಅದೇ ಅನುಕೂಲತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇವರಿಗೂ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ಈ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಇವರಿಗೆ ತುಟ್ಟಿಭತ್ಯ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇವರಿಗೆ ಈಗ ಮನೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗಾಗಿ ೧೦ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಹತ್ತು ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮನೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ೩೪೦೦ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಕ್ಯಾಟರ್‌ ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಶೌಚಗಳಿಲ್ಲ, ಲೈಟು ಇಲ್ಲ. ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಜೀವನ ಮಾಡಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾವ ಒಂದು ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಇರಬೇಕೋ ಅದೂ ಕೂಡ ಸಿಕ್ಕುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಸರಾ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಏನು ಅನುಕೂಲತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡಬೇಕೋ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ತಾವು ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅವರು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಜೀವನ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಬಳದ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಡದಿದ್ದರೂ ಹಲವಾರು ಅನುಕೂಲಗಳನ್ನು ತಾವು ಒದಗಿಸಿಕೊಡಲೇ ಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರು, ಕಷ್ಟದಿಂದ, ಅಪಾಯ ಒದಗಿಸತಕ್ಕಂಥ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಅಡಿಗಳ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಬಂಗಾರವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದು ಮೇಲಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂಥವರಿಗೆ ಜನತಾ ಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಒಂದು ಮನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುತ್ತಾರೆಯೋ ಅಂಥ ಮನೆಗಳನ್ನಾದರೂ ಒದಗಿದರೆ ಹೋದರೆ ಹೇಗೆ? ಕನಿಷ್ಠಪಕ್ಷ ಅಂಥ ಮನೆಗಳನ್ನಾದರೂ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸಿ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಬಹಳ ಅತ್ಯಾವಶ್ಯಕವಾದ ವಿಚಾರ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅವರ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳು ಏನಿವೆ ಅವು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳು ಏನೂ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಮನುಷ್ಯರಾಗಿ ಅವರು ಏನು ಅನುಕೂಲತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳಬೇಕೋ ಅಷ್ಟನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಕೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ತಾವು ನಮಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧವಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಡೆಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ಸೌಜನ್ಯದಿಂದ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಕೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

† ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಶಿವಣ್ಣ (ದೇವದುರ್ಗ).—ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಟ್ಟಿ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಮೈನ್ಸ್ ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಯಾವ ಬೇರೆ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್‌ಗಳೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಹೈದರಾಬಾದ್ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಏರಿಯಾ ಮೊದಲೇ ಬ್ಯಾಕ್ ವರ್ಡ್ ಏರಿಯಾ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ನಮಗೆ ಈ ದಿನದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಸಹಾಯ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಏನೇನೋ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರಿ ಸ್‌ಗಳು ನಮಗೆ ಬರಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತೋ ಅವು ಯಾವುವು ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಯಾವುದೋ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷ್ ಕಂಪನಿ ಯವರು ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಂಥಾದ್ದು ಈ ಕಂಪನಿ. ಕೋಲಾರ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಮೈನ್ಸ್‌ನ ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಕೊಡತಕ್ಕ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸ್ಯಾಲರಿ ಸಿಕ್ಕುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಯಾವ ತರಹದ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳೂ ಈ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ರಿಗೆ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂಥ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯ ಅನುಕೂಲಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಯೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಇದು ಬ್ಯಾಕ್‌ವರ್ಡ್ ಏರಿಯಾ ಇದೆ, ಇವರಿಗೆ ಮಿನಿಮಂ ವೇಜಸ್‌ಅಕ್ವೈ ಪ್ರಕಾರವಾದರೂ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳು ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕುವಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಕೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

† ಶ್ರೀ ಮೈಕೇಲ್ ಬಿ. ಫರ್ನಾಂಡಿಸ್.—ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೇ, ಇದು ಒಂದು ಶೋಚನೀಯವಾದ ವಿಚಾರ. ಈ ಎರಡು ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ವೇತನದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ತಾರತಮ್ಯ ಇದೆಯೆಂದು ಹೇಳು ವುದಾದರೆ ಬಹುಶಃ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ರಾಜ್ಯಮಟ್ಟದಿಂದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮಟ್ಟದವರೆಗೂ ಯಾವ ಒಂದು ಕ್ರಮವನ್ನೂ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಯಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಡಿಯಾರ್‌ನೆಸ್ ಅಲೋ ಯನ್ಸ್ ಈ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂಥ ದೊಡ್ಡ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನು ಯಾರು ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಡಿಯಾರ್‌ನೆಸ್ ಅಲೋಯನ್ಸ್ ಸಿಕ್ಕುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡು ಇದನ್ನು ಪರಿಹಾರ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. That must be a singular institution where 3,000 and odd workers do not get dearness allowance. ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ವಿಷಯ ನಮ್ಮ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಮಿನಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಬಡ್ಡೆಟ್ ಭಾಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಮಾತನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

“We in this State have already done quite well in the matter of removal of disparities in income distribution.”

ಇನ್‌ಕಂ ಡಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿಬ್ಯೂಷನ್ ಡಿಸ್ಪ್ಯಾರಿಟಿಯನ್ನು ರಿಮೂವ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಹಾಗೆ ಕಾಣಲಿಲ್ಲ. ವೇಜಸ್ ಡಿಸ್ಪ್ಯಾರಿಟಿಯನ್ನು ಅಲೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಟ್ಟಿ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಮೈನ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡತಕ್ಕ ಕಾರ್ಮಿ

ಕರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು, ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಎಫ್. ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಮೈನ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ ಸಂಬಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕೆ ಇದೆಯೋ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ, ಒಂದೇ ತರಹದ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್‌ಗೆ ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ತಾರತಮ್ಯ ಇರಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಇದು ಶೋಷನೀಯವಾದ ವಿಚಾರ. ಈ ತರಹ ಬೇರೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಇವೆಯೇ, ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡು ತಾರತಮ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹೋಗಿ ಲಾಡಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನಾನು ತಮ್ಮ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister).—In February 1977 the revision of Pay Scales together with certain concessions in perquisites to the employees with retrospective effect from 1st April 1976 was announced by the Management *suo-moto* since there was no recognised union. This involved an extra expenditure of Rs. 32-00 lakhs to the Management and an increase of Rs. 40-00 per employee besides other benefits like free foodgrains, increased contribution towards Provident Fund, etc. This was supposed to bring about an industrial peace for at least three years after the sad event of 1976 when the Personnel Manager was murdered by some of the employees, although there was no written agreement for lack of a recognised union.

All of a sudden in April 1978, the employees Union presented a charter of demands demanding, among other things, revision of pay scales on par with those of BGМК, rationalisation of allowances, payment of DA and variable DA etc. This involved an additional expenditure of about Rs. 67-00 lakhs. In this connection it is to be noted that while the pay scales obtaining in BGML is excluding DA (without merger of DA) the pay scales in Hutti Gold Mines are of composite nature, namely, DA merged with pay from 1974. A series of discussions between the Management and the representatives of the Labour Union were held at Hutti and also Bangalore. A meeting was also taken by the Minister for Labour. The Management after considering all aspects had offered an increase of 10% and certain adjustments in allowances involving an extra expenditure of about Rs. 13-00 lakhs which was itself a big burden in view of the anticipated small margin of profit of about Rs. 16-00 lakhs for the year 1978-79. However, during discussion, the Minister for Labour suggested a payment of Rs. 25-00 lakhs so that there could be industrial peace for at least 3 years. This means a benefit of Rs. 60-00 per employee per month. This was agreed to by the Management inspite of financial constraints and bad liquidity of the company, more with a view to buy industrial peace. However, the Labour Union representatives firmly refused the offer and insisted that they would accept Rs. 25-00 lakhs only as an interim relief and that matter should be referred to arbitration. Obviously, this was not an acceptable proposition,

Subsequently the Regional Labour Commissioner (Centre) initiated conciliation proceedings at Hyderabad which also proved infructuous owing the extremely rigid and unrealistic attitude of the Labour Union. However negotiation were conducted at Hutti and Bangalore and it is reported that the labour leaders are presently camping at Bangalore mobilising the support of MLAs and MLCs and with a view to meet the Chief Minister.

The offer of Rs. 25-00 lakhs to the employees would mean :

1. Increase in wage bill by 19.25% ;
2. each Hutti Gold Mine worker will get Rs. 60-00 p.m. extra ;
3. difference between BGML and Hutti Gold Mines Scales will be reduced to Rs. 30 (Min) and Rs. 40 (max) ; and
4. the surplus before taxation for the year 1978-79 (production at 40% installed capacity) will be Rs. 10-85 lakhs.

The revision announced in February 1977 having a retrospective effect from April 1976 amounting to Rs. 40-00 per month per worker together with the present offer of Rs. 25-00 lakhs which would mean a further increase of Rs. 60-00 per worker, would bring the total increase to about Rs. 100 per worker in a matter of less than two years. The Management has gone to the farthest extent possible because of the offer made at a meeting taken by the Minister for Labour. Any further hike in wages would inevitably lead to the industry becoming sick particularly in view of the uncertain pricing of Gold and the imposition of Excise Duty on Gold.

The company owes the Government of Karnataka a sum of about Rs. 3 crores and has not been able to repay the loan instalment and interest on loans for the last few years. A significant factor not to be lost sight of is the impact that any unrealistic revision in Hutti Gold Mines would have on other State Sector Mineral Undertakings like Chitradurga Copper Company limited and Karnataka Copper Company, Limited which are not financially sound.

In the circumstances stated above, it may be held that the increase offered by the Management involving an expenditure of Rs. 25-00 lakhs per annum should be considered as a fair and reasonable offer.

On 18-7-1978, there was a token strike in which all the employees including the security staff but excluding hospital, water supply staff participated. The employees are holding out threats of further intensifying the agitation.

1-00 P.M.

In addition to what I have stated I have to mention some other points. I am told by the Labour Minister that subsequently the whole question has been referred to the conciliatory officer, i.e., the Regional Labour Commissioner at Hyderabad. He is now seized of this dispute and a conciliation proceedings have to take place. Now I would only advise the workers and the Leaders of the Hutti Gold Mines to participate in the conciliation and whatever the Regional Conciliation Officer has to say, both of us will have to sit together and come to an understanding. Beyond this, I am sorry we are not in a position to do anything at this stage. I do appreciate what all has been stated by my friend Sri C. M. Armugham. As he is coming from an area which is the mining area, he knows the problems of mining workers and that is why at great length he compared the two types of works both Hutti and K.G.F. His plea that the Hutti workers should get the same rate as the Kolar Gold Mine worker gets, I do appreciate but cannot be on all fours. (a) Luckily we gave to the Government of India the K.G.F. mines. If that was not so, I do not know what would have happened. Certainly the Government of Karnataka would not have been in a position let alone make profits but even to sustain the mining operations. At one stage I think when Oorgaum mines was closed I was the Labour Minister. All the workers and their union leaders pleaded that since that mine was closed thousands of workers would not be able to get their living and it can be fatal for their future living. I was the Labour Minister then and I took up with the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister of India Sri Jawaharalal Nehru and the present Prime Minister was the Finance Minister at that time. I saw both them and as luck would have it finally they agreed to take over the mines and in order to give more and more employment opportunities this Bharat Earth Movers was thought of as a part of the scheme to see that the workers and their people were not left unemployed. The other factory was also located in addition to the Government of India taking over this Mines. They have one advantage over us. The Government has no restriction while making sale of the gold. They are now selling in the open market. They get some profit over the cost of production. That is why the hon'ble member will appreciate that as between these two mines (a) the K. G. F. management is that of the Government of India and so far as the Hutti Mine is concerned it is the Government of Karnataka; (b) the depth of the mine in K.G.F. that a worker has to go is very much more, with attendant hazards whereas in the Hutti mines a worker has to go upto the depth of maximum 2000 feet. This is another factor which differentiates between the two Mines; (c) the

third and important factor is under the Gold Control order I am prevented from selling the gold in the open market. I want the hon'ble member who has equal interest the hon'ble member Sri Michael Fernandez to understand this. Today if I am permitted to sell the gold that is in stock, now valued at Rs. 1½ crores - only book value they have taken and it is only on paper and the whole gold is lying—I can realise that amount. I cannot do that. Whatever profit that has been shown is only on account and there is no money. I think the hon'ble member Sri B. V. Kakkilaya does not know this aspect.

SRI J. H. PATEL.—Why not distribute a little gold to all of us!

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—Then I will be hauled up. I appealed to the Government of India some time back that they must either purchase or allow us to dispose off.

SRI B. V. KAKKILAYA.—What was the response of Government of India?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—I will read the letter itself. Let the hon'ble members understand the exact position.

Now I was talking about the value aspect of the gold that we are producing. A certain percentage of gold is allowed to be sold by us, no doubt to certain industries and that too under licence. They specify the persons to whom it has to be sold or industry plus the quantity. That is the reason why from year to year the production is getting accumulated. We can sell only that much and rest of it the Government of India is taking. They have a formula. According to that formula it is roughly calculated at Rs. 520 per ten grammes. Now the Hatti Gold Mines production cost comes to about Rs. 610. So, even if the Government of India were to take it, I will be losing Rs. 90 to Rs. 100 per 10 grams. This is the situation in Hatti Gold Mines. Again, we were concerned about the whole things in this way, because last year, in a way, we were not able to produce more due to cut in the electricity supply and because the Management planned for a lesser production. You can all understand what the position would have been if there was more production. In the absence of market being controlled, how can we produce more? After all, the whole gold will be kept there and money will not be coming. On the one side you have to pay for the cost of production and on the other what is produced is not sold at all. Hence about Rs. 1½ crores worth of gold as per the production value had to be kept unsold—of course the market value is Rs. 700 and odd per 10 grams. That is the position. That much money is locked up. What my friend Sri Arumugham read out as profit I wish I get that money. But nothing is there; it is a simple notional profit that they have put. I

had appealed to the Union Finance Minister as to why not he talk to the Reserve Bank of India that the gold be taken away by them. Here is a letter which Sri H. M. Patel, the present Union Finance Minister has written to me during August 1977 regarding this problem, and with your permission I would like to read that letter :

“Please refer to your letter dated 6th August 1977 regarding the question of the Reserve Bank taking over the gold produced by the Hutti Gold Mines Co.

2. You have suggested that the Government of India should purchase the Company's future production of gold, apart from the gold they sell against permits, at a provisional price of Rs. 500 for 10 grams, subject to a final adjustment at a later stage. Your reference to the sale of gold by the Company against permits in future is not quite clear. It has always been our view, as explained at the meeting held on 4th January 1977 by the former Union Minister for Revenue and Banking which was attended by your Industries Minister and other Officers, that when the pricing formula comes into force, the entire production of the Hutti Gold Mines would be taken over by Government at the price indicated in the formula. The D O letter No. MINP/482/77 dated 17th February 1977 from your Industries Minister to the former Union Minister for Revenue and Banking indicates that this was understanding on our side also. This has also been confirmed in your Chief Secretary's letter No. CI 32 GHM 75 dated 23rd February 1977 addressed to the Secretary (Expenditure) of this Ministry. You would therefore appreciate that it would not be possible to permit any sale of gold by the Hutti Gold Mines Co., against permits to the industrial sector after the formula comes into force, since the entire production of the Company would be taken over by the Reserve Bank.

3. As regards the price at which the gold is to be taken over as I mentioned to you at the meeting in my room, we would be working within the frame work of the formula.”

Unfortunately, they work out a formula and on which they calculate the production cost, and then say ‘this is the price we pay’ which will be very much less than last year's cost of production. I would like the hon'ble member to note that it was somewhere round about Rs. 550, which has gone upto Rs. 610 per 10 grams. So, the cost of production is going on higher and higher, and if this formula is working, taking into consideration not the actual cost of production, we will get lesser and lesser. This is the situation. When I asked

Sri H. M. Patel and other officers, they simply say: "your cost may be more—it may be because of so many factors like overhead charges, etc., we are not concerned with it; may be if there is overhead charge, we may have to look into it, but I do not think by that alone we could save, lakhs of rupees would not be saved by economising even there."

"You have suggested that the accumulated stocks will have to be accounted in the year 1976-77 and that the cost of production during that year is Rs. 648.23 for 10 grams of gold. The formula, however, is based on the cost of production in the base year 1975-76 with provision for periodical review which may take into account inescapable increase in cost..."

So, they take the base year. I request the hon'ble members to note this point. During 1975-76 they worked out a formula during which period the cost was given as Rs. 468.28. That is formula and they want to continue it even now whether the cost is Rs. 610 or 605 or 615 per 10grams. They say: 'let this formula continue and periodically we will see how much to add to this. It is to our great disadvantage. Further the letter says :

"We would be agreeable to accepting the cost of Rs. 468.28 given by you, subject to its being checked by the Cost Accounts Branch of the Finance Ministry to ensure that only inescapable increase over the 1975-76 costs have been included therein."

Even that they have not done. We have been requesting to come and check all the accounts. That is also not done.

"The limitation with reference to the average international price on a month to month basis, as laid down in the formula would also be applicable. As for the year 1977-78, I would be inclined to think that we should let the accepted cost figures of 1976-77 continue to be applied and review the matter in 1978-79. This would again be subject to the maximum of the average international price, month to month plus 25%.

4. In your letter you have mentioned that we had agreed that the Government of India would consider subsidising any losses that the Company may incur,"

(That is what I had written)

"should the formula work to their disadvantage. I have to clarify that the correct position is that we were not in favour of the Company increasing the scale of operations having regard to the commodity that was being produced."

“The mining Company should for the present aim at keeping the existing labour and making reasonable profit.”

SRI MICHAEL B. FERNANDEZ.—You can retrench the labourers.

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS. —The only question that comes up is that you should not lay too much stress on what the works are doing.

SRI B. V. KAKKILAYA.—The Central Government is paying more in KGF. Their cost of production will be more than Hatti Mines. Have they evolved that formula scientifically or is it an imaginary one ?

SRI MICHAEL B. FERNANDEZ.—The State Government itself accepted in 1977 during the discussion held between the officers and the workers.

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS. —The workers have accepted the truce for three years. At that times the cost of production was a little less. Even that review is to come in 1977-78; even that account is to be checked up by the Finance Ministry.

“They should also start diversifying their activities.” Government of India’s thinking is they would be very happy if we close this industry; they are not interested in our gold mines at all. KGF mines is their own now, they may not think of close it. Hatti gold mines is ours. If we press for more, they might say, you close it. Then what about the workers ? They are in favour of diversification. we have thought of diversification. That is the reason why the Tintani Copper Mines were opened about three years back. Even that company cannot be said as working under profit. There the cavdot percentage is not workable. The workers will say, we do not agree for all that.

“The Central Government would take-over the gold produced and for this purpose the formula seems to be all right That is their stand.”

It would be necessary to proceed on the basis that the Gold Control is in existance and the production of gold for ornament industry at high price is not necessary at all.

The State Government as well as the Centre would have to think as to what to do with the mine eventually. If the international price goes down appreciably and the maximum price under the formula much lower than reasonable cost at a future date, the matter would be looked into at that time ” This is the letter which came to us in the month of August 1977.

This clearly give us the indication that they are not going to allow us to sell the gold in the market. Free sale is also permissible when gold Control Order is there. They have not yet revised the formula. Under these circumstances the company is faced, apart from flowing some of its money to the Tintani Copper Mines where n we are not getting anything, we are losing, we are continuously on the verge of collapse. Now we have incurred a loan of Rs. 3 crores. While calculating the profits, which is notional, they have not taken into account the debt services at all. Actually they have to make a provision of Rs. 1½ crores, that is also not made. Under these circumstance, I request the hon'ble members to appreciate the position that the company is not having actually any profit—profit is a national thing. Therefore when this meeting took place in the Labour Minister's chamber, the management and the government have gone to the extent of offering Rs. 60 in all which comes to about 2.5 lacs as further extra expenditure per year, the rest of the years by way of certain facilities and other things. This could be negotiated further. This is the formula that we placed. Even then the workers representatives seem to be unwilling; they continue their activities against the management and they are on hunger strike. Over and above this the whole matter has been referred to the conciliation officer at Hyderabad who is a Regional Labour Commissioner. So, Sir, under these circumstance, I only appeal with all the emphasis at my command to the workers through this House not to continue their hunger strike. This problem can never be solved by hunger strike. If we were actually making profits, I would be the last person to come in the way of workers getting something more.

If norms of legal proceedings, if they are to be dified I am sorry what is it that the government can do. It is said that the Labour Minister's intervention was not satisfactory; they did not like the quantum offered. That is why we have again referred the whole matter to the Commissioner for conciliation. How can the workers think of going on hunger strike? Sri C. M. Armugam knows well, he has conducted hundreds of concillation meetings wherein he has negotiated so many settlements. When I was the Labour Minister Mr. Fernandes was a party to one of the important conciliation proceedings and settlements of ITI labourers. If they are not satisfied with the government conciliation by Minister's intervention. I cannot help. Let the Commissioner of Labour Hyderabad to whom the matter has been referred to, let them sit before him and solve the problem. Let them for heaven's sake maintain peace and order. Industrial peace is a most important thing now; otherwise if this

sort of strike were go on, I am afraid, this is not going to help neither the workers nor the company. I again and again appeal to the workers to forthwith stop this strike and attend to the conciliation meetings and see how they can settle.

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE

1-30 P.M.

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA.—I call the attention of the Minister for Food and Forest to the distribution of wheat to the Mills instead of distributing to the public.

SRI G. RAME GOWDA.—Sir, since the notice is received very late, I want some time to make the statement. The statement has to be printed and given to the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER.—It is postponed.

(ii) *re : allotment of Seats in Engineering Colleges among three Universities in the State.*

SRI M. SRINIVAS (Srirangapatna).—Sir, I would like to raise a matter under Rule 312, regarding the disparity in the allotment of college seats in three Universities in the State. The admission to the Engineering Colleges is going on. I find there is such a big disparity in the allotment of seats in different colleges among three Universities. To cite some examples, the Mysore University is having 7 Engineering Colleges which covers 8 districts and the intake of students number for the course is 1,132. Bangalore University is having 6 Engineering Colleges and covers only three districts and the intake students number is 1,405. The Karnatak University is having three Colleges and covers 8 Districts and offers 480 seats. The average seat allotted to each College is as follows :

161 seats in Mysore University

234 ,, in Bangalore University

160 ,, in Karnatak University.

There is a vast disparity between Bangalore University and the Mysore and Karnataka University joined together. As you are aware, there is lot of rush for the admission to these Engineering Colleges. I appeal to you Sir, by raising the seats in Mysore and Karnataka Universities, you can overcome this disparity and also encourage students who wish to join this course.